

## Celebrity Buzz

Didgeridoo  
taboos  
broken by  
Kidman

pg 34



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## Man convicted of torturing dog gets 30 days in prison

**CRUELTY** A Didsbury man has been sentenced to 30 days in jail to be served on weekends for torturing his family's dog in October 2006.

Daniel Haskett, now 21, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and obstruction of justice.

Yesterday a provincial judge ordered Haskett to spend 30 days in jail to be served on weekends, a year's probation and a weekday 9 p.m. curfew. He is not prohibited from owning an animal or being around animals.

Daisy had to be euthanized after she was dragged by a car with a bag over her head and hit with a shovel.

METRO CALGARY

World pg 10

## Cobblers try to claim shoe Bush ducked

Business pg 14

Oil companies  
cutting back in  
tougher times

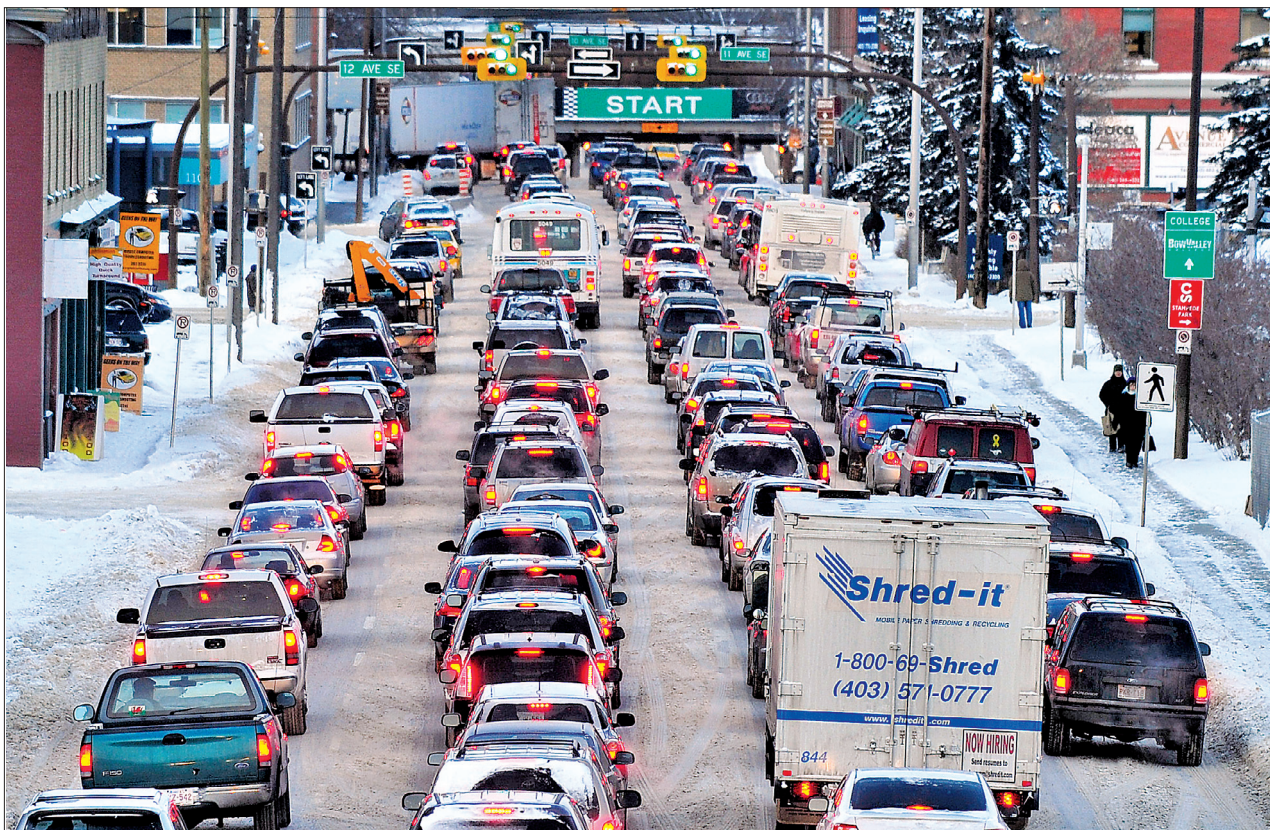
Gift Guide pg 24

Techies  
need  
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gifts, too



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Traffic is almost at a standstill during rush hour in the city. Recent snow and cold temperatures have played havoc with city streets, leaving drivers and even transit riders searching for transportation answers.

# City at a standstill

## Winter weather wreaks havoc on Calgary traffic, transit

KRISTA SYLVESTER  
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**Delayed buses, malfunctioning trains, hundreds of collisions — it's winter driving in Calgary.**

Christine Bergeron, 25, has had enough. The transit rider watched a full bus pass her downtown stop yesterday, then waited an hour for a bus that never arrived.

"It was cold, windy and snowy. I thought I would take the train and grab another bus, and then the train broke, and we had to wait almost another hour,"

**"You can't do anything about the weather, but you can do something about the driving."**

Duty Insp. Keith Pollock

she said, Bergeron said the bus normally comes every 10 minutes but she only saw the one bus over the course of an hour. "We were all just standing around freezing, wondering what was going on," she said.

Transit spokesperson Ron Collins said transit, just like the rest of the city, is dealing with treacherous road conditions and

backed-up traffic.

"We're doing the best we can. You have to appreciate it's challenging, there are some buses delayed due (to) traffic moving at a crawl," he said.

While he acknowledged the bus and train delays, Collins said the main priority is rider safety.

"We're getting there as fast as we can but also as safely as we can."

Police have responded to

over 1000 calls since Friday, when the deep freeze hit, and are warning motorists to slow down.

"You can't do anything about the weather but you can do something about the driving. If you can't see what's under the snow, assume it's bad," Duty Insp. Keith Pollock said.

Meanwhile, the city's roads department is working feverishly with sanders and graders to improve the driving conditions, according to spokesperson Kelsey Strachan.

She adds they try to get to major roads every five hours.

## City needs two more aldermen, Chabot says

NEIL MACKINNON  
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Faced with pending boundary changes that would see his ward shuffled from Calgary's east side to the north, Ald. Andre Chabot is in the process of drafting a motion for council's first session in the new year to add two more aldermen, bringing the total up to 16.

Chabot said the current system, where some aldermen represent

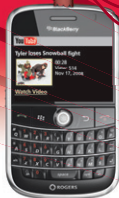
100,000 people "simply doesn't serve our citizens as well as it should."

"It's ludicrous," Chabot said. "We haven't added more aldermen since the 1970s."

Ald. Andre Chabot said the 1970s and our population has at least doubled since then.

While Chabot would like to see a report detailing what two more bodies to council chambers would look like, University of Calgary political scientist Keith Archer said he doubts there would be public appetite for such a move.

"If anything right now, I think Calgarians would want to see the size of government cut," Archer said. "More isn't always better and if we follow the logic of increasing council size based on population, we could wind up with something rivaling the provincial legislature."



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**Ex-cop to plead guilty in the new year, says lawyer**

A former Calgary police officer is going to plead guilty to possession of child pornography early next year, his lawyer said in court yesterday. Stephen Huggett, 54, will be back in court on Feb. 9.

METRO CALGARY

# Local



## Nutcracker time

Alberta Ballet presents The Nutcracker at the Jubilee Auditorium; the long-awaited world premiere of a holiday favourite begins Dec. 17 and runs until the 22nd. Tickets are available at [www.albertaballet.com](http://www.albertaballet.com) for between \$23 and \$96. A new matinee has been added on Dec. 22.

METRO CALGARY

## UGLY BETTY

9 Tonight

# Citytv

## Police seeking info on victim's whereabouts

**MURDER** Calgary police are trying to piece together the final day of Juan Carlos Dequina's life after he was found dead in the driver's seat of a black Chevy Blazer Sunday in the city's deep south.

Dequina, Calgary's 33rd homicide victim of 2008, was found not far from his home near the intersection of 53 Street and 146 Avenue SW after a passerby saw what they thought was an abandoned car around 3 a.m.



Juan Carlos Dequina

Dequina, 22, was last seen around 1 a.m. in the city's northwest but police are hoping people will step forward with any information about his whereabouts on Dec. 13 or 14.

"Right now we're just trying to establish a motive for this crime," said acting Staff Sgt. Rick Tuza, noting Dequina, the eldest of two boys, lived at home with his parents and was spoken highly of by his employer.

Police weren't releasing the manner of Dequina's death or even if there were signs of violence in the vehicle.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

# Cops, kids go shopping

KRISTA SYLVESTER  
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**Cops swarmed Marlborough Mall yesterday but it was all in good fun — and a whole lot of shopping.**

For the third year in a row the CopShop program brought together 27 deserving students with 27 officer partners assigned to escort the kids throughout the mall on their \$200 shopping sprees.

Besides the attention she would receive, 12-year-old Candace Job of Dr. Egbert Junior High school said she was excited to shop for her friends and family.

"I might buy myself some clothes too. My parents were really happy for me and I was really excited to get this," she said.

She was also thrilled to get out of school for the morning.

"I'm missing a test right now," she smiled.

Const. Kevin Collier was



ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Katreena Ignacio, 12, gets to pick out some Christmas gifts with Calgary Police Service Const. Kevin Collier during the CopShop 2008 held at Marlborough Mall.

also looking forward to his first experience with the program, and followed Candace around store to store including Arden's, where he held on to dresses and bracelets for her.

"It's a lot of fun and I

think it's very much in the Christmas spirit. It's a great program for the kids and they work hard all year and this is a reward for them," he said.

The students who were chosen to receive the spree

for their good behaviour and community initiatives.

"Basically, these are kids who are very deserving of a shopping spree this time of year, program spokesperson Const. Sauerwein said.

## Man charged in attack that hospitalized woman

**ARREST** While a woman still lays in intensive care in the hospital police have arrested and charged a man with her attack.

Staff Sgt. Rosemary Hawkins of the domestic

conflict unit said police arrested and charged 25-year-old Daryl Pichler without incident yesterday.

"Her family has flown in to be with her, but we haven't been able to speak

with her yet because of the extent of her injuries," Hawkins said.

Pichler has been charged with aggravated assault and criminal negligence causing bodily harm. **METRO CALGARY**

## News in brief

**BOW WEIR** Construction crews have begun work on the deadly Bow River weir earlier this month but the completion of the project has been delayed another year. It's the first step in correcting what has been called the "drowning machine."

**RECORD FINE** A man who owned almost 30 horses that died from starvation in February was fined a record \$12,000 yesterday. Axel Hinz-Schleuter pleaded guilty last month to a charge of allowing animals to be in distress. **METRO CALGARY**

metronews.ca

What's online today.

**Video** Boy who gave bone marrow to save his brother hailed as a hero at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)  
**Video** Jim Flaherty vows to work with the provinces to revive economy at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

## Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 11, 18, 22, 28, 30 & 49. Bonus 25.  
These results are not official.

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Firefighters have determined the cause of a fire on Dec. 13 that torched a woman's trailer home. Investigators believe the fire started by a tipped over heat lamp inside of a dog shelter, causing \$60,000 damage. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Be it resolved: Aldermanic promises

NEIL MACKINNON  
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**They make daily decisions on the future of this city. Between double-digit property tax hikes and \$25-million pedestrian bridges, the directions they take may not always be popular, but it certainly isn't easy work. It's serious business.**

In a bid to lighten the holiday spirit, Metro asked city council for their personal New Year's resolutions.



Lowe Hawkesworth

Here's what they said:  
**Ward 2 — Gord Lowe**

"I'm not going to be cutting back on my beard trimming expenditures and I'm always kind to fellow aldermen, but I'll have to go with be kind in general and be consistent."



Connelly Mar

**Ward 4 — Bob Hawkesworth**  
"I'm going to try and be more agreeable and yes, I'll cut back on beard trimming expenses, but I'm not going to let it go so far that I look like Santa Claus."

**Ward 6 — Joe Connelly**  
"I promise not to park in



Chabot McIver

the mayor's parking spot. Again."

**Ward 8 — John Mar**

"My hair is longer than all my female colleagues on council, so I resolve to get a hair cut every quarter whether I need it or not, and by cut, I mean trim."



Fox-Mellway

**Ward 10 — Andre Chabot**

"I'm going to disagree less with the mayor and try and work more with him so hopefully he'll return my calls."

**Ward 12 — Ric McIver**

"I'm going to say yes to building more bridges in 2009."

**Ward 14 — Linda Fox-Mellway**  
"I don't do New Year's resolutions."

## Watch for jazz hands in Calgary

KRISTA SYLVESTER  
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**CHICAGO** Soon the backdrop of the Jubilee Auditorium will transcend Calgarians back into the intoxicating times of the 1920's.

Roxie Hart, played by Bianca Marroquin, and the entire cast of the Broadway Musical will transform the city's idle limbs into jazz hands this winter season.

"I think it's more exciting for us. I have a love for Canada and it's very exciting to be touring with the show to the city," Marroquin said.

Chicago is celebrating its 10th year on tour while it will actually be Marroquin's seventh stint playing the lead character Roxie in the jazzy, mysterious musical about murder and fame.

Chicago kicks off Dec. 30 and runs until Jan. 4 at the Jubilee. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Alberta won't censor movies

**CULTURE** Alberta's cultural minister said he is not going to censor any films that are made in the province, contrary to comments he made last week saying he would deny

funding to films critical of Alberta.

The minister reiterated a film's content will not prevent it from getting funding.

**METRO CALGARY**

## Recreation passes tailored to user

NEIL MACKINNON  
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**FACILITIES** Anything that can save Daryn Wall money in a tightening economy is welcome news, including a citywide initiative to whittle down family recreation costs.

Starting Jan. 1, 14 city-owned recreation facilities will offer users the opportunity to customize their recreation passes. Children

can be added to a family pass for 10 per cent of an adult pass and the third child in a family is free.

Users will be able to choose whatever time limit they want a pass for, from one month to a year, and smaller recreation venues will cost less than larger-scale leisure centres with a wider array of services.

"It sounds good to me," Wall said. "We have three kids and it could save us a bunch of money."

The city's business services assistant manager Heather Cowie, said focus groups from earlier in the year indicated a need for more flexible recreation programming and access.

"One of the biggest things we heard was people were staying away or leery of buying passes because they were only in town six months, eight months a year and buying a year-long pass didn't make sense," said Cowie.

### News in brief

**ECONOMICS** For the first time ever, Regina has topped the economic activity rankings followed by Toronto, Saskatoon and Vancouver. Calgary, the number one ranked city last

year, has fallen to a dismal sixth place, according to a CIBC World Market's report. The report ranks 24 Canadian cities.

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## Public Notice

### Residential garbage collection Temporary holiday schedule changes

Dec. 23, 2008 – Jan. 2, 2009

Waste & Recycling Services wishes all Calgarians a happy and safe holiday season. As we wind down another year of operations, there are a few temporary residential garbage collection schedule changes in effect during the holiday season.

If you receive garbage collection service on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, the following temporary changes will be in effect during the holiday season only. Collection of your garbage will happen one day earlier than normal until the end of 2008. We'll resume garbage collection on your regular collection day during the first week of January.

If you receive garbage collection service on Friday, there's no change to your collection schedule. You'll continue to receive service on Fridays during the holiday season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22 Tuesday collection happens today	23 Wednesday collection happens today	24 Thursday collection happens today	25 (Christmas Day – No garbage collection)	26 No change – Regular Friday collection day	27
28	29 Tuesday collection happens today	30 Wednesday collection happens today	31 Thursday collection happens today	1 (New Year's Day – No garbage collection)	2 No change – Regular Friday collection day	3

**Commercial garbage collection** - There are no changes to commercial garbage collection schedules during the holiday season.

**Recycling depot operations** - There are no changes to recycling depot operations during the holiday season.

**City of Calgary landfills** - City of Calgary landfills will be closed on Dec. 25, 2008 and Jan. 1, 2009.

2008-2624

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An advertisement for H&M featuring two male models. The model in the foreground is seated, wearing a bright red V-neck sweater over a dark striped collared shirt and grey trousers. He is looking directly at the camera. The model in the background is standing, wearing a dark sweater with horizontal grey and white stripes over a red and white striped collared shirt and grey trousers. He is looking to the side. The background consists of a warm-toned wall and a wooden door. The text 'Sweater \$39.90' is overlaid in the center. The H&M logo and the phrase 'MOST FASHIONABLE GIFTS' are in the bottom right corner.

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Talks aimed at averting a strike at some Pacific Coast ports are progressing slowly, a representative of the employers said yesterday. Foremen in Vancouver and Prince Rupert, B.C., will be in a legal strike position as of Jan. 2, but the union and employers are scheduled to meet with a mediator again Friday. **REUTERS**

# Canada



## Unusual ice led to collapse

An unusual buildup of ice likely caused the collapse of a gondola tower that stranded more than 50 skiers in mid-air at Whistler, B.C., officials said yesterday. A preliminary investigation discovered that water had leaked into the tower at the Whistler-Blackcomb resort. The water then froze, creating a condition called "ice jacking," which caused the structure to fail on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**ECONOMY** Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty is refusing to slash corporate taxes to help the banks, instead saying they should cut their interest rates to aid consumers. His shot at the Canadian Bankers Association

came after it urged his government to cut corporate taxes in next year's budget or risk losing high-paying financial sector jobs to other jurisdictions as the recession deepens.

**LEGAL BATTLE** Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams told CBC yesterday that if AbitibiBowater wants to start a legal fight, it is welcome to try, but he insists his government has the legislative power to ex-

propriate the company's assets in the province. Williams was responding to the company's threat to take legal action over the province's expropriation of the company's provincial assets.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Stressed soldiers slipping through cracks: Report

**The stigma surrounding mental illness remains one of the greatest challenges facing the Canadian Forces today, the military ombudsman said in a report on operational stress injuries released yesterday.**

"It is clear that stereotypes and stigma associated with operational stress injuries still remain a real problem," ombudsman Mary McFadyen told reporters yesterday. "Cultural change is needed and that must come from the top."

The report is a follow-up to a devastating 2002 assessment of operational stress injuries and notes that while there has been progress — including the plan to hire 218 new mental health professionals by

next March — 18 of the 31 recommendations from the initial report have not been fully implemented.

Based on individual interviews with over 360 current and former military members suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or other operational stress injuries — along with profes-

**"The consequences ... are often devastating and long lasting."**

Mary McFadyen

sional caregivers, all lives of the military chain of command and other stakeholders — the report concluded some military personnel are not being diagnosed properly or getting the treatment they need.

"The consequences for individuals who fall through the cracks are often devastating and long lasting," McFadyen wrote in the 62-page report.

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### Halifax Canada Games prep



Federal Defence Minister Peter MacKay, right, Nova Scotia Minister of Health Promotion Barry Barnet, left, and Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly turn some sod for the official ground breaking ceremony for the Mainland Common Centre yesterday. The \$40.5-million centre will be ready for the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

### Ontario to get more seats in Parliament

**POLITICS** Prime Minister Stephen Harper is giving Ontario an early holiday gift — greater representation for the province in the House of Commons.

Under Harper's previous legislation, which died on the order paper before the Oct. 14 federal election, B.C. would have gained

seven seats, Alberta five and Ontario 10 — less than half the 21 it's entitled to due to rising population numbers.

"I spoke to him about that and I think we've ... fixed it," Premier Dalton McGuinty blurted out to surprised reporters yesterday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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# Finance ministers agree on economic plan

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his provincial counterparts agreed yesterday on a joint pro-growth plan which includes accelerating spending on urban reconstruction, better support for workers and freeing up bank credit for Canadian businesses and consumers.

Flaherty said Ottawa must open its coffers to pump money into the economy to soften the impact of the recession, but said it is too early to say how big the planned stimulus package would be. Economic growth next year will de-




cline by 0.4 per cent, he said. Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, who sharply criticized Flaherty in the private meetings, welcomed the agreement in principle on federal-provincial action.

But "we really didn't deal with what I would call the substantive, tough issues," he told the media. The hard questions are what kind of economic stimulus is most effective, what kind of infrastructure investments are best and "how do you get the money into the ground" quickly,

he said. Duncan noted that Ontario signed a major agreement on infrastructure spending with Ottawa in July "and not one dollar has flowed." Flaherty said Ottawa's infrastructure spending next year will probably exceed the \$6 billion already promised. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE


## Naked woman unharmed by fall

EDMONTON A man out for a smoke got the shock of a lifetime when a naked woman fell from the sky yesterday morning. The 19-year-old woman fell from a third-floor balcony of an apartment and landed, uninjured, at the feet of a man standing outside. METRO CANADA




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# DANIER



Four years after polarizing Americans with its take on racial bigotry and stereotypes, Oscar-winning movie Crash is enjoying life as a TV series that has equally divided critics. Crash the TV series comes from Canadian Paul Haggis. The 13-episode series has been found by some critics to lack the intensity of the movie. **REUTERS**

Oscar-winning Crash's TV spinoff gets mixed reviews

# World



## Fake luxury for tough times

If your hedge fund has collapsed and the bank foreclosed on your mansion because of the global recession, don't worry, you can still toast the new year with caviar. Well, fake caviar. Waitrose supermarket chain in Britain is selling something it calls Arenkha MSC with a similar texture and taste to the much-prized sturgeon roe but at a fraction of the price. It says it combines "smoked herring with squid ink, lemon juice and spices." **REUTERS**

## Cobblers claim credit for shoes

Across the Middle East, rival shoemakers have claimed it was they who created the footwear flung at U.S. President George W. Bush by an angry Iraqi and immortalized by TV cameras.

For many, reporter Muntazer al-Zaidi is a hero for the attack on Bush, and some of the glory seems to have rubbed off on the shoes that almost connected with the presidential head.

Suggestions have been made that they came from cobblers in China, Turkey Lebanon. But yesterday, Zaidi's brother dismissed such reports, saying they came from the factory of Iraqi shoemaker Alaa Haddad, viewed as among the country's best.

**REUTERS**

### Hero's reward?

- An Egyptian man said yesterday he was offering his 20-year-old daughter in marriage to Iraqi journalist Muntazer al-Zaidi, who threw his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush in Baghdad on Sunday.

Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak reported Turkish businessman Ramazan Baydan had made the shoes and carried a front page picture of the design, alongside the headline "Made in Turkey."

Baydan said he designed the style in 1999, and orders from Iraq had increased by 100 per cent since the Bush incident.



Maria Siemionow, standing, talks to the media yesterday about the team of surgeons that performed the first U.S. near-total face transplant over the past two weeks in Cleveland, Ohio.

## First U.S. patient undergoes face transplant

**SCIENCE** Surgeons have replaced 80 per cent of a woman's face, transplanting bone, teeth, muscle and nerve in the first such operation in the United States.

They said the woman suffered severe trauma that cost her an eye, much

of her nose and her upper jaw and left her unable to breathe, smell, taste or smile properly.

Ohio's Cleveland Clinic gave no details about the woman, how she was injured, or who the donor was.

"We transferred the

skin, all the facial muscles in the upper face and mid-face, the upper lip, all of the nose, most of the sinuses around the nose, the upper jaw including the teeth, the facial nerve," said Francis Papay, the clinic's chair of dermatology and plastic surgery. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**ISRAEL** Relatives of Russian tourists injured in a bus crash arrived in Israel yesterday as officials prepared to fly the bodies of the 24 who died back to St. Petersburg.

**ITALY** A suspected Mafia boss arrested on Tuesday in a high-profile police sweep has hung himself in his prison cell, police sources said yesterday.

**GREECE** Protesters hung banners from the Acropolis in Greece yesterday and called for demonstrations across Europe, in the 12th day of unrest since police shot dead a teenager.

**CORRUPTION** The Illinois Supreme Court yesterday denied a request that embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich be temporarily removed from office amid charges he tried to sell President-elect Barack Obama's old U.S. Senate seat. The ruling came as Blagojevich began fighting impeachment efforts against him. **REUTERS**



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**Sweet development at Coke and Pepsi**

Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc. said yesterday they received U.S. regulatory clearance for natural, calorie-free sweeteners derived from the stevia plant, and planned to launch new soft drinks in the coming weeks. **REUTERS**

# Powder-filled envelopes sent to embassies

**Envelopes containing white powder that later tested negative for toxins were mailed to 16 U.S. embassies in Europe this month, the State Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.**

"Tests conducted to date have all met with negative

results," State Department spokesman Robert Wood said a statement that cautioned some test results had not been completed.

"The impact on the day-to-day operations has been minimal," he said. The letters prompted the temporary closure of the consular section in Bucharest

Tuesday and the Rome consulate was closed yesterday, Wood said.

The FBI said in a statement that the embassy letters, as well as similar envelopes containing white powder that were sent to the offices of more than 40 governors in the U.S. since Dec. 8, were all post-

marked in Texas.

The letters were received at U.S. diplomatic missions in Berlin, Bern, Brussels, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Dublin, the Hague, Luxembourg, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Reykjavik, Riga, Rome, Stockholm and Tallinn, said Wood.

The State Department

was still waiting for results from the mission in the Dutch capital, Wood said.

In October, letters, many containing a suspicious white powder, were sent to Chase bank offices and two other financial institutions in several states and to the New York Times headquarters in New York. **REUTERS**

## History

• U.S. authorities have been on alert for envelopes containing white powder since 2001, when envelopes laced with anthrax were sent to media outlets and U.S. lawmakers, killing five people.

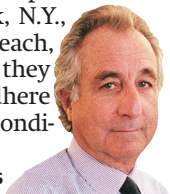
## Madoff placed under house arrest

**CRIME** Disgraced Wall Street investment manager Bernard Madoff, accused of orchestrating a \$50 billion fraud scheme, was put under house arrest yesterday.

A federal judge ordered Madoff, 70, confined to his \$7-million Manhattan apartment and told Madoff's wife, Ruth, to surrender her U.S. passport by noon today as part of modified bail conditions.

Madoff will be fitted with an electronic ankle bracelet and will only be allowed to leave his home for appointments prearranged with authorities.

Yesterday, the Madoffs signed an agreement to forfeit their Manhattan apartment and properties in Montauk, N.Y., and Palm Beach, Fla., if they failed to adhere to the bail conditions.



**REUTERS**

## Group gets jail time for racist murder spree

**RUSSIA** A Moscow court jailed a group of skinheads on Monday for murdering 20 migrants in a racist killing spree, part of a wave of violence against immigrants in Russia.

The seven teenagers killed the migrants and tried to murder 12 others between August 2006 and October 2007.

Attacks on migrant workers have risen this year and political analysts fear the global economic crisis, which is hitting Russia hard, may aggravate the problem. **REUTERS**

## News in brief

**RECOVERED** A rare 9th century three-faced marble head of the Greek goddess Hecate was seized from a store in Rome's historic centre after it was stolen by thieves last year, Italian police said yesterday. The bust was one of hundreds of stolen ancient artefacts that Italian police displayed after recovering them. **REUTERS**



## Gingerbread men



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# Comment & Views

## Comment

### Case of musical chairs

Canada now a shadow of its former self on world stage

#### Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

From Lawrence Cannon comes word that Canada is "actively campaigning" for a seat on the United Nations Security Council beginning in 2011.

Cannon made the announcement — if that is what it was — at a diplomatic forum in Quebec City yesterday. Reuters treated it as news. For Canadians who fear their country has gone missing in the world, maybe it is.

News? It's news that we are "pursuing" a seat that we have held, once a

decade, since the founding of the United Nations in 1945? It's news that we are mounting a campaign to assume our traditional role as one of the 10 rotating non-permanent members of the council?

If that's news, it's because Canada's stature has fallen so far that last spring Ottawa had considered *not* running for a seat traditionally considered ours. If we were not going to win it, the government felt, why risk the embarrassment of losing?

We are now a country that's a shadow of its former self in the world, which must labour mightily to win a seat on the Security Council. The fear in

Ottawa is that Canada won't have the votes in the General Assembly when the election is held in 2010.

Much has to do with a loss of support in Africa, where we no longer have the presence in development assistance that we did. Indeed, some say that we have abandoned Africa.

This time the two open seats may likely to go Portugal or to Germany, which has been mounting a well-organized campaign.

Incidentally, Cannon is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. You can be forgiven if you don't know this because it's unlikely the world does, as well.

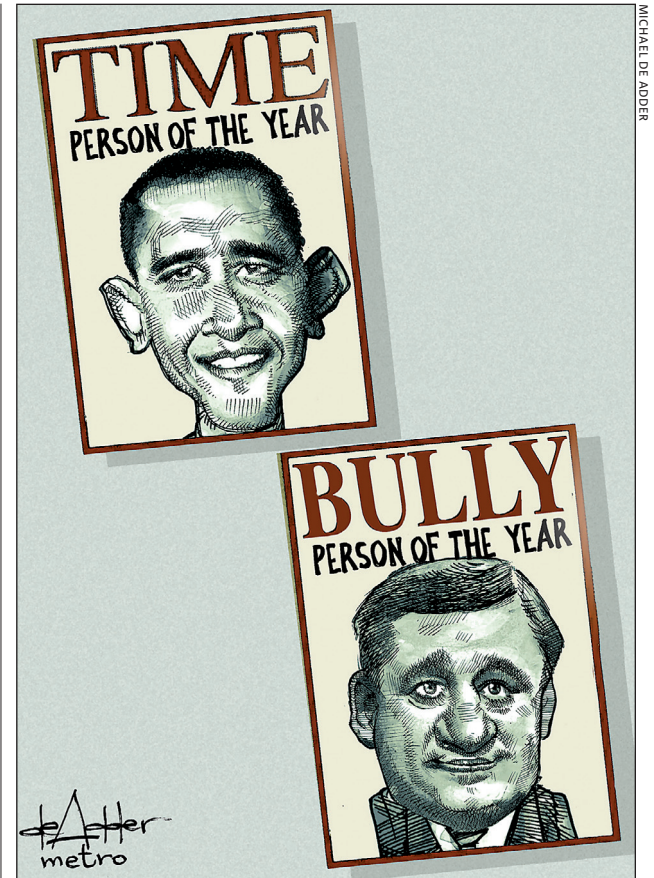
This isn't his fault; Cannon is intelligent, thought-

ful and articulate in both official languages. The problem is Cannon is Canada's fourth foreign minister since the Conservatives took office in February 2006. He has been preceded by Peter MacKay, Maxime Bernier and David Emerson.

Changing ministers like changing shirts isn't new; since Lester Pearson left the position in 1957, Canada has had a different foreign minister about every two years. The terms are getting shorter.

This suggests a country without commitment, which simply isn't serious about the world anymore. And that's why we are now chasing a seat on the Security Council, and why that is news in Canada.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

## Letters

### Give the Conservatives a chance to govern the country

Why can't we just give the Conservatives a chance to rule the country and see what happens?

Why can't we just give Mr. Harper some trust, some time and some respect he deserves as a prime minister elected by the people?

The Liberty party was in power from 1993 to 2006. History has told us that no one party should be in power for too long, otherwise it will take things for granted.

And Mr. Harper is the change this country needs right now.

The last election has shown that the Conservative government is what most Canadian people want, at least for now.

By having a coalition and forcing the Conservative party to leave office is against the basic rules of democracy.

YAN ZHOU, TORONTO

### The coalition soap opera made politics interesting

I am so pleased about this whole episode of a possi-

ble coalition government and the interest it has generated across the country. We have never seen anything like this.

We are 30 million-plus and we have 30 million-plus opinions from taxi drivers to bus drivers, bartenders to barbers, students, you name it, we have one.

We have always thought Canadian politics are boring and the election participation level is always low, but this takes the cake.

Well done politicians, you folks finally did it. You woke us all up and it makes politics exciting.

ANANT NAGPUR, OTTAWA

### Canadians have little knowledge of constitution

I'm surprised and baffled that so many Canadians have little knowledge of the Parliamentary constitution.

We don't elect a prime minister, we elect a Parliament.

It is then the responsibility of that Parliament to choose a leader it supports.

DAN GOULET, TORONTO

## Views

### Getting better child care: It's the policy, stupid



Martha Friendly

A new study of early childhood education and care in 25 countries ranked Canada in last place, tied with Ireland, and behind the U.S., Australia and Mexico.

While other evidence has long shown Canada to be a laggard on child care, UNICEF's study — the first to use measurable outcomes — has motivated Canadians to ask, "Why are we doing so poorly?" The study offers a plain answer: "It's the policy, stupid," paraphrasing former U.S. president Bill Clinton's campaign slogan.

Two key developments drove the study. First, most children in affluent countries now have mothers

working outside the home; 75 per cent of mothers of three- to five-year-olds are in the labour force in Canada.

Second, abundant research shows that young children — especially older preschoolers and more vulnerable children — benefit from good quality early childhood education (ECEC).

UNICEF observes that these developments converge: Access to good quality not only enhances a child's well-being and development with long-term social and economic returns, but is also a key strategy for responding to immediate economic challenges such as parents' access to employment, reduction of de-

pendence on social programs, strengthening local economies and job creation.

The study bases its rankings on 10 benchmarks that build upon Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that states, "The best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

The rankings tell the public policy story. None of the six poorest ranking countries has a national plan for ECEC. The six top countries met most of the benchmarks, including public financing of at least one per cent of GDP while the poorest ranked countries met very few. The benchmark ratings show that public policy "in the best interests

**"It's no wonder that UNICEF has called on Canada for a public policy response."**

of children" means that a national policy and adequate financing are linked to good access to quality ECEC programs and go hand-in-hand with better parental leave, lower child poverty rates and better health indicators for young children.

It's no wonder that UNICEF has called on Canada for a public policy response: "the federal government must take the lead ... with solutions presented to the public by July 2009." A good beginning to this would be funds for child care in the January federal budget followed by development of a robust ECEC policy framework that meets the needs of families and children.

Canada should do no less.

Martha Friendly is the executive director of the Childcare Resource and Research Unit.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [calgaryletters@metronews.ca](mailto:calgaryletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



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# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Business in brief

**MARKETS** The Toronto Stock Exchange and the small-cap TSX Venture Exchange are expected to reopen today after a system fault linked to data feeds shut down both markets for the whole session yesterday.

**OIL** Oil prices dropped three per cent yesterday after OPEC announced a record supply cut of 2.2 million barrels per day starting Jan. 1, the biggest single reduction on record. The group hopes the move will offset slumping demand. **REUTERS**

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## Oil firms cutting back as prices keep sliding

**Producing heavy oil in Canada, much of which comes from the big oil sands deposits of northern Alberta, is a tough business and it's getting tougher.**

The tar-like crude trades at a discount to lighter varieties. That wasn't a problem in July, when benchmark oil prices climbed above \$147 US a barrel, but after prices slid by more than \$100 US a barrel in the months that followed, some heavy oil producers are beginning to feel squeezed.

On Monday, small producer Connacher Oil and Gas Ltd. said it would restrict production of bitumen, a form of heavy oil, at its Great Divide thermal project in the oilsands to 5,000 barrels a day (bpd) from 9,000.

It was the first firm to cut production in the wake of falling oil prices, but likely not the last.

"Should oil prices continue to trade in the \$40 to

**"Should oil prices continue to trade in the \$40 to \$50 range ... we will start to see more companies make a hard decision."**

Menno Hulshof

\$50 range and differentials remain wide, then we will start to see more companies make a hard decision," said Menno Hulshof, an analyst at Dundee Securities. "I think it's inevitable."

Connacher said that prices are so low it can no longer cover its costs and is unwilling to keep pumping out its reserves at a loss. Thermal operations such as Connacher's Great Divide project, in which steam is pumped into the ground to liquefy bitumen, are expensive to run with smaller firms more likely to make cuts. **REUTERS**

## U.S.-style policy here 'premature,' Carney says

**ECONOMY** Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says it is "entirely premature" to talk about implementing in this country the kinds of unorthodox policy tools the Federal Reserve Board is preparing to wield after the U.S. central bank cut its key interest rate this week to virtually zero. He said the bank does "contingency planning" and has looked at these issues. **REUTERS**

## Internet Explorer flaw exposes 1.5M

**TECHNOLOGY** More than 1.5 million computer users may have been exposed to harmful software or viruses because of a "critical" security flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer, the most widely used Web browser in the world.

Microsoft yesterday released an unscheduled update to protect customers from malware, which allows hackers to control your computer through downloaded software. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Ukraine Consumers struggling



A pregnant woman begs for money in central Kiev yesterday. Ukrainian consumers could default on 60 per cent of their debt obligations with a hryvnia currency rate of nine to the dollar, an aide to President Viktor Yushchenko said yesterday.

## BCE sues would-be buyers

**LEGAL** Telecom giant BCE Inc. has sued its would-be buyers in a failed \$34.8 billion takeover agreement over the collapsed deal's \$1.2 billion breakup fee.

According to a court document filed in Quebec and posted on BCE's website, the company says it's entitled to the money from the buyers. The buyers have

said neither side is owed a break fee as a result of the deal's collapse.

In its lawsuit, BCE asks the Superior Court that the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan pay about \$704 million of the total, while Providence Equity Partners and Madison Dearborn Partners shoulder the balance. **REUTERS**

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**Davenport pregnant, to skip Aussie open**  
American tennis star Lindsay Davenport is withdrawing from the Australian Open because she is pregnant with her second child. The former No. 1-ranked woman gave birth to a son, Jagger, in June 2007. Davenport hasn't played since the U.S. Open in August of this year. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports



**"There's just so many bloggers; everybody's got an opinion. Sometimes that starts forming the opinion of people in front offices, too, and owner."**

Minnesota Timberwolves coach Kevin McHale, left, to the St. Paul Pioneer-Press on the stresses of coaching in the NBA today.

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## Bertuzzi ends drought, wins it

### NHL RESULT

Flames 3 Wild 2 (OT)



LAURENCE HEINEN  
for Metro Calgary

**THE SKINNY:** Todd Bertuzzi scored at 3:48 of overtime to break out of a 19-game goalless drought and lead the Flames to record back-to-back road victories on consecutive nights. Daymond Langkow scored once in regulation before setting up Big Bert's game winner.

**THE RESULT:** The win temporarily put the 18-11-3 Flames alone into top spot in the Northwest Division, ahead of the Vancouver Canucks, who were playing in a late game against the Edmonton Oilers.

**THE FLOODGATES:** After playing to a scoreless draw through the first period and a half, the two squads reeled off



Craig Conroy scores on Minnesota Wild goaltender Niklas Backstrom as Jarome Iginla looks on in the second period last night.

three goals within a span of 3:28 in the second stanza.

**THE MILESTONE:** Will have to wait, as Calgary captain Jarome Iginla was held off the scoresheet while in search of his

800th career NHL point.

**THE GIFT OF GAB:** After missing 27 games with a lower-body injury, sniper Marian Gaborik returned to the Wild lineup and tallied a goal as well as

an assist.

**THE NEXT GAME:** The Flames now return home to face the Chicago Blackhawks at the 'Dome on Friday night (7 p.m., Sportsnet, Fan 960).

## Recession may burn Flames roster

For as much as Jarome Iginla, Mikka Kiprusoff, Dion Phaneuf and Robyn Regehr mean to the Flames, they'll have to take on an even larger role if Calgary is to remain competitive as the global economic slowdown moves into 2010-11.

The NHL salary cap will almost surely drop from \$56.7 million this season to about \$50 million in 2010-11 once the recession digs in its teeth over the next 18 months.

The financial reality of a recession means businesses and fans have less to spend on advertising, private boxes and NHL tickets.

The Flames have nine players signed in 2010-11 for \$35.84 million: Iginla (\$7 million), Phaneuf (\$6.5 million), Kiprusoff (\$5.83 million), Daymond Langkow (\$4.5 million), Regehr (\$4.02 million), Cory Sarich (\$3.6 million), James Vandermeer (\$2.3 million), Curtis Glencross (\$1.2 million) and Mark Giordano (\$891,667).

That will leave just \$14 million for 14 roster spots. It's tough to figure out how that will be enough to put together a supporting cast strong enough to be contenders.

If the Flames want to sign Mike Cammalleri or someone of his ilk, the price tag is at least \$5 million. Among first or second-liners, only Iginla and Langkow are under contract in 2010-11, so more talent is needed.

If Cammalleri's price is too high, Calgary can settle for a poor man's Cammalleri free agent for \$4

TheHockeyNews

Brian Costello

thehockeynews.com

million.

That leaves \$10 million for 13 roster spots. Assuming David Moss, Dustin Boyd and Adam Pardy continue to progress, they're going to need raises to stick around.

Let's say the Flames get fortunate and sign Moss and Boyd for \$1.5 mil each and Pardy for \$1 million.

The leaves \$6 million for 10 roster spots. Top prospect Mikael Backlund is scheduled to make \$1.3 million in 2010-11 and if he plays on the top two lines, that's a bargain.

That leaves \$4.7 million for nine roster spots, which means nine grinders from the prospect list or farm team or free agent scrap heap working for the NHL minimum of \$500,000.

It also means no room on the payroll to re-sign impending free agent support players Adrian Aucoin, Matthew Lombardi, Rene Bourque, Todd Bertuzzi, Wayne Primeau, Eric Nystrom and Brandon Prust.

That's how the recession will hit the Flames in 2010-11.

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## Tiger unsure of return date

**Tiger Woods has no idea when he will return to competitive golf next year, despite being ahead of schedule in his recovery from reconstructive knee surgery.**

The world number one has been sidelined since winning the U.S. Open in June when he defied stabbing knee pain and a double stress fracture of his left tibia to clinch his 14th major title. Ideally he would like to play in at least a warm-up event before the Masters in April, the first major of the season, but he knows that will depend on the pace of his healing. "I've just been training and trying to get



Tiger Woods speaks in California yesterday.

back, trying to get healthy enough to compete next year," Woods told a news conference yesterday on the eve of the Chevron World Challenge which he hosts. "The range of motion is good. The only difference is I've just got to watch that I don't overdo it so the leg doesn't swell."

REUTERS

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# Holiday Shopping Guide V

## Go for plush



### #1 For the love of pets

Visit: [tinipuppini.com](http://tinipuppini.com)  
"Toffee" Tini Puppini doll, \$34.99, by Spin Master. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, more.

### #2 Hot holiday toys for him

Visit: [bakugan.com](http://bakugan.com)  
Bakugan Battle Brawlers, \$5.49-\$24.99. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, and more.

### #3 Jingle bell rock 'n' roll

Visit: [cbc.ca/kids](http://cbc.ca/kids)  
Mamma Yamma and Friends CD, \$19.99 at chapters-indigo.ca.

### #4 Fun and educational

Visit: [beezibeez.com](http://beezibeez.com)  
This spelling game, \$29.99, is available at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).

### #5 Help them get active

Visit: [m2universe.com](http://m2universe.com)  
Kids can play Me2, \$36.95, once they earn points through physical activity.

### #6 Rockin' and rollin'

Visit: [winners.ca](http://winners.ca)  
This plush rocking giraffe, \$59.99, is available at Winners stores across Canada.

### #7 Monkeying around

Phone: 1-888-633-5833  
Visit: [GrassrootsStore.com](http://GrassrootsStore.com)  
Organic cotton-stuffed monkeys, \$29.99.

### #8 Make music

Visit: [toyexpress.ca](http://toyexpress.ca)  
Amazing Animals Spinnin' Around Musical Zoo by Fisher-Price, \$60.

### #9 For a good cause

Visit: [ikea.ca](http://ikea.ca)  
Soft toys, from \$2.99-\$14.99 (\$1.58 goes to Unicef and Save the Children).

### #10 Artistic expression

Visit: [stampinup.com](http://stampinup.com)  
Stampin' Kids Tattoo Kits, \$16.50 each. Includes six individual designs.



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No purchase necessary. Prize is a VAIO custom-to-order notebook, maximum value \$2,000 before taxes. Skill-testing question is required. Visit [www.sonystyle.ca/me](http://www.sonystyle.ca/me) for full contest rules and details. Odds depend on number of valid entries received. Sony, Sony Style, like.no.other and VAIO are trademarks of Sony Corp. Windows Vista is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, the Intel logo and Centrino are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

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## Holiday Shopping Guide V

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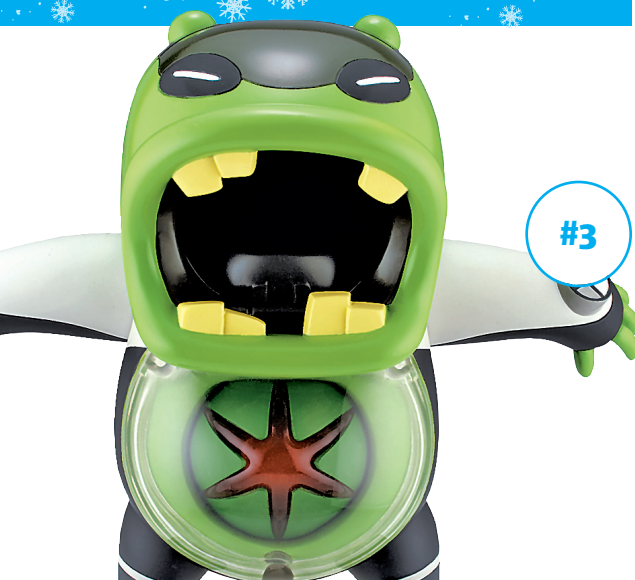
#2



#4



#5



#3



#6

#1

**For the snow lover**

Visit: homehardware.ca  
Space scooter snowboard with folding handle, \$23.97 at Home Hardware.

#2

**Package deal**

Visit: amazon.ca  
Xbox 360 Elite Console Holiday Bundle 2008, \$399.99. Includes games.

#3

**Alien invasion**

Visit: bandai.com  
Ben 10 DNA Alien Heroes' Upchuck, \$9.99. Available at Toys R Us, Zellers, more.

#4

**Sweet ride**

Visit: airhogs.com  
Air Hogs Zero Gravity Micro, \$29.99. At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, and others.

#5

**Fun with photos**

Visit: toyexpress.ca  
Waterproof Kid-Tough Digital Camera, \$80. Designed to survive being dropped.

#6

**Stocking stuffer**

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Nintendo DS in crimson and black, \$139.99. Also in pink, silver and blue.

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BRIAN COULTON  
for Metro Canada

**This holiday season, travel to northern Ontario, India, into history and through the minds of the world's greatest achievers by stuffing one of these four books in the stocking of the book lover in your life.**

### Outliers: The Story of Success

**Author:** Malcolm Gladwell  
**Publisher:** H.B Fenn & Company Ltd.  
**Price:** \$30.99 (hardcover)

**THE CANADIAN-RAISED** author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink* and staffer at *The New Yorker* examines the grounds for greatness in *Outliers*: The *Story of Success*. Gladwell examines why certain people are so much more successful than the social norm. While considering factors like culture, birth year, geographic origin and social status, Gladwell identifies real examples to unlock the secrets to success, including what Mozart, The Beatles and Bill Gates share that made them successful.

### The Pitchfork 500

**Editors:** Scott Plagenhoef and Ryan Schreiber  
**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster Canada  
**Price:** \$18.99 (paperback)

**FROM DAVID BOWIE'S** post-Ziggy tune *Heroes*, through Björk's Homogenic homage to Iceland, Jóga, *The Pitchfork 500* picks the top songs "from punk to the present," perfect for the music snob in your life. Assembled by six editors and 38 contributors, and divided by year, this guide provides the genre-spanning back-stories to some of music's greatest songs and artists — interspersed with niche genre capsules like "Grindcore: Ten Skatepunk Greats."

### Slumdog Millionaire

**Author:** Vikas Swarup  
**Publisher:** Harper Perennial  
**Price:** \$17.95 (paperback)

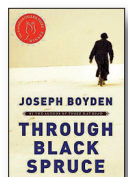
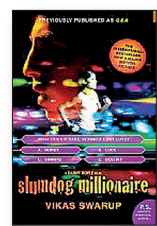
**WHEN AN UNLIKELY**, uneducated young man from the slums of Mumbai walks away with the top prize on ante-upped game show *Who Will Win a Billion?*, there's certain suspicion his talent for trivia must be the

result of cheating. But 18-year-old waiter Ram Mohammad Thomas insists he just knew the answers. In the book, Thomas animatedly relives his past to convince a lawyer just how a teen who never read a newspaper went from slumdog to stinking rich.

### Through Black Spruce

**Author:** Joseph Boyden  
**Publisher:** Viking Canada  
**Price:** \$34 (hardcover)

**MEET WILL BIRD:** He's the Cree native bush pilot in a coma after drunkenly crashing his plane. Meet Annie Bird: She's Will's niece who is consumed by locating her supermodel sister. While Will's experiences reflect a traditional Aboriginal way of life, Annie's speaks to the modern state of native Canada. Like their generations, Annie and Will's stories seem a world apart, but Boyden explores the similarities in each character's quest to find their own identity.





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## Holiday Shopping Guide V

## Tool time



#1

#1

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This Smart Select Jigsaw, \$44.99, features a range of settings.



#2

#2

**Lightweight tool kit**

Visit: [homedepot.ca](http://homedepot.ca)  
Ryobi 4-Piece Lithium-ion Power Tool Kit, \$169. Includes Hybrid Saw.



#3

#4

#4

**Hammer time**

Phone: 1-800-567-7705  
Visit: [bostitch.com](http://bostitch.com)  
Bostitch Graphite Mallet, \$55.99.

#5

#5

**Set 'em straight**

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## Books for young minds

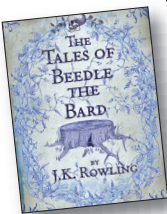
BRIAN COULTON  
for Metro Canada

**Fantastic quests, repulsive pests and a wizard's digest fill the pages of the books Metro recommends for your kids this holiday season. Suited for children aged 9 to 12, finding these tales under the tree will surely excite young readers on Christmas morning.**

## The Tales of Beedle the Bard

**Author:** J.K. Rowling  
**Publisher:** Penguin Canada  
**Price:** \$14.50 (hardcover)

**ONE YEAR AGO**, J.K. Rowling auctioned off just seven handmade, self-illustrated copies of *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, her quintet of short children's stories. But this holiday season sees Rowling finally release the stories for mass publication. The Tales extend on the Harry Potter-mania that shot Rowling to fame, offering a selection that acts to set up the final Potter publication, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Plus, added to the author's

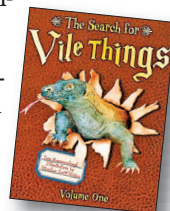


darkly imaginative writing is generous commentary by Albus Dumbledore that gives readers even deeper context to a collection of texts within a text.

## The Search for Vile Things: Vol. 1

**Author:** Jane Hammerslough  
**Publisher:** Scholastic Canada  
**Price:** \$13.99 (hardcover)

**FROM THE GROSS** to the gripping, the first volume of *The Search for Vile Things* explores nature's oddities from the East Indies. Guide Ephemer Churlyshe, her employee Tode and relatives Maldred, Wee Nettle and Rune navigate the landscape, discovering animals, natural disasters and human tendencies. Take the plunge to find the sea apple, an underwater creature that shoots poisonous strings from its behind to kill enemies. Or smell the corpse flower, an 8-foot, 4-inch plant covered in insects that reeks of rotting meat. And, before you leave, be sure to try the stinkbug — it may smell bad, but it's edible and tastes smoky when roasted.



## Timothy and the Dragon's Gate

**Author:** Adrienne Kress  
**Publisher:** Scholastic Canada  
**Price:** \$16.95 (hardcover)

**USE YOUR BOOKSTORE** gift cards to pick up the latest in the magical children's series by Torontonian Adrienne Kress when it hits stores on Jan. 13. Her novel follows Timothy, a problem child who's just been kicked out of the city's last school. But his biggest problem lies in Mr. Shen — an employee in the mailroom at his father's work. Mr. Shen holds a secret: he's really a dragon, condemned to a human's body until he traverses a Dragon's Gate at a year of the dragon festival. Timothy must protect Mr. Shen as dragon from a host of villainous characters and, with newfound friend Alex, conquer adversary sea commander the Man in the Beige Linen Suit.



See more books that are sure to excite young minds at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)



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## Holiday Shopping Guide V

## Gifts for every techie

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**CELLPHONES:**  
**Apple iPhone 3G**  
(\$199 with a three-year contract)

**LG Vu**  
(\$79.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

**BlackBerry Bold**  
(\$299 with a three-year Rogers contract)

**Samsung Jack Merlot**  
(\$24.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

**Nokia E71**  
(\$99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

**Motorola Rokr**  
(\$49 with a three-year Rogers contract)

**Nokia 5310 XpressMusic**  
(\$19.99 with a three-year Rogers contract)

There's an almost endless range of cellphones on the market these days, and an equally endless number of things you can do with your phone, depending on how much you're willing to spend on service plans. One thing's for sure, though: it's almost impossible to find one that won't take pictures or play music.

At the top of everyone's wish list is the **iPhone** — the most addictive phone ever to hit the market, thanks to its wildly responsive touch screen and the wild selection of software available through iTunes' app store.

Never mind that if you

use the phone as much as it wants you to, you have to recharge the thing every night — it's a computer even more than a cellphone.

**LG's Vu** is a sort of iPhone lite — a similarly sleek touch screen phone with an icon-based interface.

An especially nice touch is the shutter for the camera — placed on the side, roughly where you'd expect to find it on a real camera.

The **BlackBerry Bold** is among the widest on the market, a boon for text and e-mail fiends with big thumbs.

Like the iPhone, the Bold has a full range of features, but it's all work, and little play — the way it requires that you go two

clicks into the menu to turn on the keypad lock is an example of the rigorous relationship BlackBerry users have with their phones.

**Nokia's** slick, solid **E71** is the narrowest of the trio, and might prove a bit awkward for bulky digits.

It also uses Nokia's own OS, which takes some time to get comfy with.

The **Motorola Rokr** is a pretty phone, and impressively built, with a nice haptic touch interface — essential for a sleek candybar phone with no buttons.

The software and the small screen make it the least user-friendly of the bunch, however.

But rumour has it the company is actively working to overcome this failing.

Finally, **Nokia's 5310** is a small but handy phone if you eschew text and e-mail but want to leave your mp3 player at home.

You're going to need a 4GB MicroSD card to make

that work, although the phone's nominal cost makes that more than affordable.

**MINI COMPUTERS:**  
**Toshiba Portege R600**  
(\$3,299)

**Dell Mini 9**  
(\$349)

The day of the monster laptop is ending, with the larger members of the species taking up permanent residence in homes as "desktop replacements," while lighter, nimbler runabout models are taking advantage of the era of USB keys and net storage and losing their disc drives.

On the high end is **Toshiba's R600**, a sort of AirBook for the PC world. A fully featured Vista machine, it slims down both weight and battery consumption thanks to a 128GB solid state hard drive, but still manages to include a DVD disc drive. There's an eSATA port and two USB slots for outboard

memory storage, and a fingerprint reader for paranoid types.

**Dell's Mini 9** is the chunkiest of the mini notebooks at 2.28 pounds, and runs XP on an Intel Atom chip on a 16GB solid state drive, though an Ubuntu

Linux version is available with a 32GB SSD. It has an 8.9-inch widescreen LED screen, and the keyboard has shifted some peripheral key placement around to fit its tight dimensions (just 9.13 inches).

**READERS:**  
**Sony Reader PRS-505**  
(\$299)

**Sony Reader PRS-700**  
(\$399)

The paperless library might be further in the future than the paperless office, even, but the day will come when most of us do our reading on sheets of e-ink.

The two current models of **Sony's Reader** are actually very different; the PRS-505 is slightly more low-tech, with page turns and menu accessible through small but discrete buttons, while the PRS-700 has a slicker touch-screen interface with page turns made by a flick of the finger.

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## Achieve big sound in a small space

ANNE GAFIUK  
for Source Media Group



**No longer limited to high-end executive homes anymore, condo owners and shoppers looking to own an awesome home theatre and audio system have some tricked-out options.**

"Everything that can be done in a house, we can do in a condo, says Warren Press, president of Calgary's Holmes Theater, who advises first checking condo by-laws to see what's allowed before putting speakers in the walls ceilings.

Though sound transfer between units is the

biggest issue, Press says it doesn't have to be prohibitive. "Bass is the biggest challenge, but it can be attenuated with very good insulation behind dry-wall." Bass shakers are another way to get around deep noises, with the transducers actually built into chairs or couches for a complete experience.

In a condo, maximizing what an owner can do with square footage is fundamental. Flat screen televisions, projectors and large screens are becoming mainstream, and are quite well suited for condos, says Press. "There are many solutions for full automation and light control, too, allowing for mood settings and music selection, for example, all tied together."

For those who prefer not



Despite the small digs, condo owners shouldn't feel limited when it comes to home entertainment options.

to have the television as a room's focal point, motorized screens or artwork designed to fit over a screen are additional options for smaller spaces, and have become a recent trend.

But bigger is not always better, especially given that owning a condo often goes hand-in hand with

shared walls, and a certain implied level of respect for who you're sharing with.

Small, quality sound systems are available, including the Denon micro system, the Linn Classic music and movie systems, and Arcam's Solo series, says Simon Wilson, manager at Audio Ark in Edmonton. "A

condo owner wants a happy relationship with his or her neighbour, so don't walk out of the store with a big subwoofer."

Space considerations, aesthetics, bylaws or house rules, should always be concerns. "People have to remember when they live in condos there are people beside, below and above them, in most cases. We want to provide clients with quality over fidelity at low volume," Wilson says.

Simplicity and ease of operation always weigh in to the deliberations. "Most people just want to put in a CD or DVD without having to fiddle with it, yet have the quality of sound they expect," says Wilson. "These systems do this."

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metro homes **27**

# Last-minute festive decor

HomeScape

**Sylvia Putz**

metronews.ca/homescape

If you're one of those people who honestly do intend to put up Christmas decorations but haven't yet gotten around to it, don't worry. There really is time before your in-laws come knocking at the door ... but not much.

What you need is a plan to minimize work and maximize your holiday decor impact. Luckily, some of us have been there, and are willing to share the art of laying on the Christmas cheer pretty close to the deadline.

Rule number one is to scale down — concentrate on doing more with less. Try to avoid plastering the house with every last piece of Christmas finery you've acquired over the last decade. For a classy look, less is more. Be selective.

It can be handy to go with a theme in order to



Stuck for a holiday-decor theme? Tried-and-true options include high-shine and natural looks — and you can always resort to some combination of red, green gold and silver.



choose which decorations you need to use, and which ones you need to keep stored away.

You may decide to go with ornaments of a certain colour, for example. If you do, pick colours that harmonize with your home decor. But if you're at a loss about how to coordinate holiday decor with your purple walls, you can always go for some combination of red, green, gold and silver, which always works well at Christmas.

If you're willing to be adventurous, you could go with a theme, such as ornaments from a certain time, like '70s disco, or an old-fashioned Victorian-looking Christmas, or a "bling" Christmas using baubles and enormous rings.

Something unique can be refreshingly original, but the old standards can be quite lovely too. As always, traditional colours always look great with evergreen boughs, pinecones, grasses, branches and berries. Although the natural look may not be new and exciting, it looks reliably classy.

When it comes to choosing areas of the house to decorate, stick to a few highly visible areas. A Christmas tree is obligatory in most houses. Other visible areas include the front door or windows, a fireplace mantel and a staircase railing.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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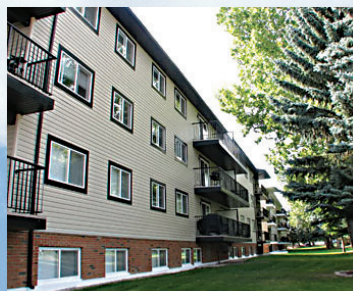
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According to the latest Eating Patterns In Canada (EPIC) report from The NPD Group, a full 88 per cent of respondents revealed their intentions to decrease the amount of time spent dining out in restaurants, choosing the comforts of home instead. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Staying in is the new dining out?**

# Food

**"Just 5 Things: Easy Gourmet Cooking with Just a Handful of Ingredients is true to its word — all recipes contain only five ingredients."**

Metro News Services



**In colour**

The Reader's Digest book, by Rachel Lane, contains more than 330 recipes, all illustrated with full-colour photographs.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

## Try these season's eatings

À la carte

**Barb Holland**

Metro Food Writer

**Sticky Toffee Pudding is a classic dessert of British origins. It is a winter dessert when warm and comforting — it really hits the spot. Wishing you delicious season's eatings!**

**Sticky Toffee Puddings**  
Makes 8 servings.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL)

- pitted dates (about 8 oz/250 g), chopped
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) boiling water
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla
- 1-1/4 cups (300 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) dark brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- Toffee Sauce:**
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) dark brown sugar
- 4 tsp (20 mL) cornstarch
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

**METHOD:**

Place dates and baking soda in a heatproof bowl. Pour boiling water over, stir and submerge dates in water; let stand 10 minutes until dates are well-softened. Mash with a fork. Stir in vanilla.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Butter 8 ramekin or custard cups. Whisk together flour, baking powder and salt, set aside.

In a bowl, beat butter and brown sugar together until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in flour mixture then date mixture until evenly mixed (don't overmix). Divide batter between cups, filling about 3/4's full.

Place ramekins on a baking sheet and bake until puddings spring back when lightly touched or toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Transfer ramekins to wire rack to cool 10 minutes. Run a knife around edges to

loosen.

While puddings are baking, make sauce. In a 4 cup (1 L) glass measure or bowl, whisk sugar and cornstarch together. Whisk in milk until smooth. Microwave, uncovered at High for 2 to 3 minutes or until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Whisk a few times during cooking. Stir in butter until melted, then vanilla. Makes about 1-1/4 cups (300 mL).

To serve, turn warm puddings out onto individual plates and serve with warm Toffee Sauce.

**When the days are short and the long, cold nights descend early, the Festival of Chanukah arrives. During this time, dairy dishes are customary and this recipe from Norene's Healthy Kitchen: Eat Your Way to Good Health by Norene Gillett (Whitecap Books, \$35) is both light and decadent.**

**Decadent Marbled Cheesecake**

Makes 12 servings.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 lb (500 g) light cream cheese, cut in chunks
- 1/2 lb (250 g) nonfat pressed (smooth) cottage cheese, cut into chunks
- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs plus 2 egg whites (or 3 eggs)
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Passover brandy or liqueur
- 3 oz (75 g) dark, bittersweet chocolate, melted (or 1/2 cup/125 mL chocolate chips)

**METHOD:**

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Fill a baking pan half-full with water and place it on the bottom rack of the oven. (The steam helps prevent the cheesecake from cracking.) Spray a 10-inch ceramic quiche dish with cooking spray.

In a food processor fitted with steel blade, process cream cheese, cottage cheese and sugar until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add eggs and brandy;

process until well-mixed, about 25 to 30 seconds longer. (Don't over-process.) Remove 1 cup (250 mL) batter and mix with melted chocolate until blended.

Pour the white batter into prepared dish. Pour chocolate batter over white batter in a wide circle, about 1/2-inch (1 cm) in from the sides of the dish; there should be a bull's-eye of white batter in the center. Cut through the batter carefully with a knife to create a marbled effect. Don't blend the batter too much or the marbled effect will disappear.

Bake on middle rack for 30 to 35 minutes or until centre jiggles slightly when you shake the dish, but cheesecake isn't sticky when touched lightly with fingertips. Let cool completely, then cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

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### Canadian Living recipe of the month

## Chocolate Peanut Butter Pudding Cake

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 3/4 cup (175 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) natural peanut butter
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) packed

- brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) cocoa powder
- 1 cup (250 mL) boiling water

**METHOD:**

In large bowl, whisk together flour, granulated sugar and baking powder. Whisk together milk, egg and peanut butter; stir into flour mixture. Scrape

into greased 8-inch (2 L) square glass baking dish.

In heat-proof bowl, whisk brown sugar with cocoa powder; whisk in boiling water until smooth. Pour over cake; do not stir. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until cake is firm to touch, about 30



For more great recipes, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca).

minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes.

Makes 6 servings.

## SUPER BOXING DAY SALE!

This Boxing Day, Stock up on exciting, premium wines at unbeatable prices from The Wine Shop. December 26<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm til 5 pm - Take 20% off our exclusive selections and find other great deals on books, accesories and last-minute gifts!

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According to the latest Eating Patterns In Canada (EPIC) report from The NPQ Group, a full 88 per cent of respondents revealed their intentions to decrease the amount of time spent dining out in restaurants, choosing the comforts of home instead. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

●●●●● INSPIRED; ●●●●● VERY GOOD; ●●●● PALATABLE; ●● HO-HUM; ● NEVER AGAIN

# Dinner and a show? Try it for lunch

LunchRush

Blaine Schlechter

blaine.schlechter@metronews.ca

Lunchbox Theatre  
160, 115 9th Ave SE  
403-265-4292  
lunchboxtheatre.com

**Hours of operation:** Mon. – Sat. (12:10 p.m.-12:45 p.m.), Fri. (6 p.m.-6:45 p.m.)  
**Rating:** ●●●●● (out of 5)  
**Price Range:** \$\$\$\$ (out of 5)  
**Reservations:** Recommended  
**Client negotiations:** No  
**Lunch w/co-workers:** Yes  
**Social Lunch:** No  
**Quick solo lunch:** Yes  
**Time in:** 11:50 a.m.  
**Ordered:** 24 hours prior  
**Food arrived:** 11:50 a.m.  
**Time out:** 12:45 p.m.

**Total time:** 55 minutes  
**Low \$:** Sandwich, \$10  
**High \$:** Sandwich, \$10  
**Lunch menu:** Only  
**Licensed:** No

Straight from a Monty Python movie it is my turn to say: "And now for something completely different."

My next stop is the Lunchbox Theatre which offers you not only a lunch but they promise to enter-

tain you as well. Lunchbox Theatre presents a downtown daily one-act play that runs over the lunch hour. No time to eat and get there? No problem — they actually encourage you to eat during the performance. Each play is 45 minutes long and they offer six plays a season.

Getting into the Christmas spirit, I choose the Friday performance of The Christmas Tree. For lunch I pre-ordered the Turkey and Swiss sandwich combo (performance \$16, meal \$10) which included a drink, chips and an orange. Meals are supplied by the adjacent Auburn Saloon and must be pre-ordered at least 24 hours in advance. To make things super easy, your lunch is conveniently waiting for you at the box office. The sandwich was very fresh and the 'brown bag' lunch was filling enough. Definitely better than I could have made at home for myself.

The concept of a lunchtime theatre is such a great idea. The meal felt picnic-like and the play



The concept of a lunchtime theatre is such a great idea.

was amusing and entertaining. Of course Lunchbox Theatre isn't great for a lunch meeting but it does break up the monotony of the day for yourself

and your co-workers. In today's fast paced world, if there's any chance that you have to enhance your cultural side and still complete your day, I say grab it.

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Vuitton flagship planned in Tokyo cancelled

LVMH, the world's biggest luxury goods group, has scrapped a planned Louis Vuitton flagship store in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza shopping district, as a spreading recession takes the lustre off designer brands. REUTERS

# Style



## A fashion statement with a message

Italian Jewelry line DeMaria is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a unique and timeless collection. The jewelry line includes pendants, bracelets and rings (left) engraved with words and phrases taken directly from the original document. Each item is made of solid 925 silver and comes in a variety of plating including white silver, yellow gold and black ruthenium. Ranging in price from \$350 to \$475, the collection is available at Exclusive Diamonds ([exclusive-diamonds.com](http://exclusive-diamonds.com)). METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

# Heat up the holidays with lace

### accessory

Are you naughty or nice? Use it as a blindfold or simply for sleeping. Available at Agent Provocateur ([agentprovocateur.com](http://agentprovocateur.com))



## Lingerie

Surprise your man this holiday with a little lace. Body skimming lace, ruffles, garters and fishnets are all the things needed for a special night. Wear these garments underneath your holiday dress or keep them bedside. Head to Agent Provocateur for kinky but classy luxe lingerie and accessories. If your budget is a little tight, La Senza has got you (semi) covered with sheer body suits and sassy camis and bottoms from the new Pussy Cat Dolls collection.



**Body Suit**  
Designer: La Senza  
Shop: La Senza  
Address: Various Locations  
[lasenza.com](http://lasenza.com)

\$40



**Embroidered Bodice**  
Designer: Change  
Price: Top - \$145, Bottom- \$38  
Shop: Change  
Address: Various Locations  
[change.com](http://change.com)

\$183



**Lacy Basque**  
Designer: Agent Provocateur  
Shop: Agent Provocateur  
[agentprovocateur.com](http://agentprovocateur.com)

\$475



**Bath Robe**  
Designer: Aerie  
Shop: Aerie  
Address: Various Locations  
[ae.com](http://ae.com)

\$50



**Silk Robe**  
Designer: Change  
Shop: Change  
Address: Various Locations  
[change.com](http://change.com)

\$180



**Sheer Kimono**  
Designer: Madame V  
Shop: Flesh  
[fleshlingerie.com](http://fleshlingerie.com)

\$240

### Style File



**Kim Elbo**  
[kim.elbo@gmail.com](mailto:kim.elbo@gmail.com)

## ask kim

I bought a New Year's Eve dress that's a tad tight and now I need to buy shapewear that will smooth out the appearance of my undergarments. Do you have any suggestions?

We've all gone running to Spanx, but the U.S.-based company isn't the only one helping us out when it comes to unwanted bulges; Joe Fresh carries similar body slimming shorts and Vancouver designer Twin Syndrome is shaping our tummys with high-waisted underwear.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

### GlobalStyle



**Kenya Hunt**  
Check out Kenya's best/worst dressed list, exclusively at [metronews.ca/globalstyle](http://metronews.ca/globalstyle)



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**tip:** Always lay your underwire bras flat to dry never dry them in the dryer. Over time the heat from machine drying can warp and distort the wire in your bra.

Food + Entertaining

## YAHOO! LIFESTYLE CANADA

Everything about life, updated every day.

### GIVE HOLIDAY STRESS THE BOOT!

We've got 6 simple tips to help just about anybody stay on top of things this holiday season.

Are you getting more stressed out as the holidays approach? Does the mere thought of not finding the perfect gift for each person, entertaining people at home, or finding the right dress for the office party make you nervous? The holiday season is supposed to be fun... but for those who need to juggle work, a household, gifts and entertaining, it can sometimes seem like an obstacle course.



(continued online...)

Here are a few basic rules to follow in order to avoid getting too stressed out and to help you enjoy this special season.

### Have fun

Once your guests are in the house, relax and enjoy their presence. You'll notice that people are always willing to lend a hand, so accept it if they offer. Also, there's no shame in not having everything on the table when the guests arrive.

To read more, visit [lifestyle.yahoo.ca](http://lifestyle.yahoo.ca)

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**Hasselbeck receives Whitehouse apology**  
The View's Elisabeth Hasselbeck has received an apology from the White House after not receiving an invite to its annual Christmas party. Hasselbeck voiced her discontent at not being invited on The View on Tuesday. [TVGUIDE.COM](http://TVGUIDE.COM)

## Celebrity Buzz

# Madge, Guy slam settlement story

**SETTLEMENT** Madonna and Guy Ritchie are slamming recent stories about their divorce settlement, people.com reports.

The joint statement — issued in London — came just days after Madonna's U.S. rep gave the Associated Press details of the supposed deal. Liz Rosenberg said that Madonna, 50, was set to hand over cash and property worth between \$76 million US and \$92 million US, calling it "one of the largest (divorce) payouts ever."

But now the couple calls that information "misleading and inaccurate."

The statement

reads: "We have tried to maintain a dignified silence regarding the details of our divorce for the last few months whilst accepting the obvious media interest ... The financial details of the settlement will remain private, save to say that both of us are happy with our agreement."

"Our primary concern, like any co-parents, is the care and well being of our children."

The couple — whose divorce will become final in January — have two sons,

Rocco, 8, David, 3. Madonna has a daughter, Lourdes, 12, from her relationship with Carlos Leon.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

## A-Rod to Christmas with Madonna?

**HOLIDAYS** Guess who's coming home for Christmas? Madonna had agreed to give up her New York Christmas and spend the holiday with ex Guy Ritchie and their kids in the U.K., but there's a catch, hollycoop.com reports. Her boy toy Alex Rodriguez is coming along for the ride.

The website reports that Madonna and her kids will jet to London on December 23 and stay for Christmas, while A-Rod takes a different flight out right before

Christmas and hangs out in a hotel waiting for Madonna to finish playing Mommy.

A source tells the UK Sun: "She wants the kids to be with their parents but wants time with A-Rod"

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Prenup for Brangelina?

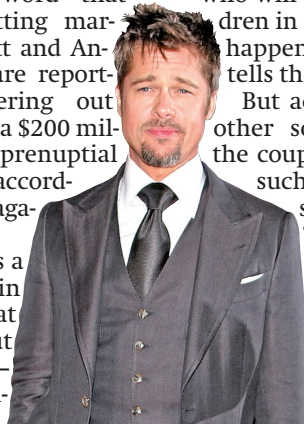
**PRENUP** While there's been no official word that they are getting married, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are reportedly hammering out the details of a \$200 million US prenuptial agreement, according to Star magazine.

Pitt "wants a prenup in place that spells out everything — their fi-

nances, their property and who will raise their children in case something happens," a source tells the magazine.

But according to another source close to the couple, Jolie thinks such an agreement suggests "that deep down Brad may still harbour doubts."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Lohan runs into her stalker

**RUN IN** Lindsay Lohan came face-to-face with her suspected stalker

Tuesday night while leaving a club outside

Phoenix, popeater.com reports.

The website says she and Samantha Ronson were exiting the Jackrabbit Lounge when a man in the crowd jumped Lohan, trying to go around club security to meet her.

The 38-year-old man was tackled by police and arrested for disorderly conduct.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Kidman warned she may be 'barren'

**CULTURE** Nicole Kidman has been warned she may not have any more children — because she tried to play the didgeridoo, according to ananova.com

The Oscar winner blew into the traditional instrument while promoting her latest film Australia on a German television show. Co-star Hugh Jackman laughed and danced on one leg while she played during their appearance

on Wetten, Dass...?

But Kidman's performance upset members of the Aboriginal community, who say she should know that the didgeridoo is taboo for women.

"People are going to see Nicole playing it and think it's all right," actor, screenwriter and Aboriginal language teacher Richard Green told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"It bastardizes our culture. I will guarantee she has no more children," he said. "It is not meant to be played by women as it will make them barren."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



HELLO!

## Hot shot of the week



Fashion designer extraordinaire Roberto Cavalli recently invited HELLO! into his opulent home in Florence, Italy, for a festive family celebration. Cavalli (at back) stands proudly with his children, their spouses and grandchildren; wife Eva is pictured below left. "Christmas is one of the few occasions we're all together," she says.

**HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at [hellomagazine.ca](http://hellomagazine.ca)**

## Gosling still loves McAdams: Source

**LOVE** Ryan Gosling is still in love with Rachel McAdams, imdb.com reports. The pair — who met on the set of romantic movie The Notebook — split in November but friends say the actor can't get over Rachel.

A source said: "Ryan is still close to the McAdams family and he still speaks to Rachel, but they are both openly single. He still loves Rachel, and she still loves him, but the timing is off and

they can't make each other happy right now."

The 32-year-old actress is currently in London filming Guy Ritchie's new project Sherlock Holmes, while

Gosling is busy working on a new career in music.

The source said: "Ryan is completely focused on putting out his album. He is spending a lot of time in the recording studio."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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**Today**  
Mostly cloudy  
-22 °C / -24 °C

**Friday**  
Mostly cloudy  
-23 °C / -27 °C

**Saturday**  
Partly cloudy  
-27 °C / -32 °C



**Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television**  
“I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta.”  
**WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.**

Take Five

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
			22			23					24	25
26	27	28				29			30			
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37			38					39				
		40					41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8	7				5	6		
2				1	6			4
					3	1		
		3			9			7
	2						1	
5				7		2		
		4	9					
7				1	8			6
		9	2			8	5	

Crossword across

- 1 Spill the beans  
5 Foundation  
8 Military hat  
12 Volcanic outflow  
13 Listening device  
14 The yoke's on them  
15 Leave out  
16 Actress McClanahan  
17 Ollie's pal  
18 Hole  
20 "The Lion King" villain  
22 Stenciling process  
26 Struck  
29 Started the trick  
30 Chinese chairman  
31 Possess  
32 Accomplished
- 33 "West Side Story" gang  
34 Compass dir.  
35 Haw's partner  
36 — willow  
37 Hollywood audition  
40 Small pie  
41 Fungal growth  
45 Anything but that  
47 Little devil  
49 Met melody  
50 Not the whole amount  
51 Perched  
52 — a soul  
53 Banana castoff  
54 Take a whack at  
55 Coloring agents

Crossword down

- 1 United nations  
2 Tibetan priest  
3 Tel follower  
4 Soft, sheer fabric  
5 Emerald, for one  
6 Perfume label word  
7 Clad  
8 Noted  
Cleveland QB  
Bernie  
9 Radical degrees  
10 Pod occupant  
11 Hostel
- 19 Dead heat  
21 Sent  
duplicates of e-mail  
23 Austrian  
painter Gustav  
24 Dines on  
25 Inquisitive  
26 "— Like the Wind"  
27 Not fem.  
28 It follows 19-Down  
32 He looks down in the mouth  
33 North Sea
- peninsula  
35 Part of H.R.H.  
36 Omega predecessor  
38 Art support  
39 Void  
42 Wagon  
43 Green acres  
44 Methods  
45 Recipe meas.  
46  
Weeding tool  
48 Scratch the surface

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

S	T	Y		F	D	A	
F	A	R	O	C	L	A	M
A	I	L	E	H	O	N	O
B	R	O	K	E	H	I	S
E	E	N		L	A	P	S
				H	E	R	S
				S	P	I	R
B	U	R	T		D	I	C
A	N	I		C	R	A	N
T	U	M	B	L	I	N	G
P	E	R	U	S	E		N
S	E	E	K	S		I	R
D	D	S			C	A	P

8	7	9	6	1	2	3	5	4
3	5	1	9	4	7	2	6	8
6	4	2	8	3	5	7	1	9
5	1	8	4	7	3	9	2	6
2	3	6	5	9	1	4	8	7
7	9	4	2	6	8	5	3	1
1	6	7	3	5	4	8	9	2
4	8	3	1	2	9	6	7	5
9	2	5	7	8	6	1	4	3

Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

<b>SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:</b>	17-21 min .....	Smart	
Under 13 min .....	Genius	21-25 min .....	Not bad
13-17 min .....	Scholar	25+ min .....	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chili Steak with Texas Toasts

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tsp (10 mL) ground cumin
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) chili powder
- 3/4 tsp (4 mL) oregano
- 3/4 tsp (4 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) black pepper
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) spicy vegetable juice
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) fresh lime juice
- 2 cups (500 mL) frozen corn, thawed
- 2 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1 small red bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 12 oz (375 g) well-trimmed flank steak
- 1 loaf (8 oz/250 g) Italian bread, halved horizontally, then halved crosswise
- 1 garlic clove, peeled and halved

METHOD:

1. Stir together cumin, chili powder, oregano, salt and black pepper in small bowl. Place vegetable juice and lime juice in measuring cup. Measure out 2 1/2 tsp (12 mL) spice mixture and stir into vegetable-lime juice mixture.
2. Combine corn, scallions, red pepper and 1/2 cup (125 mL) of vegetable-lime juice

mixture in medium bowl. Stir to combine. Refrigerate until serving time.  
3. Preheat broiler. Rub remaining 1 tbsp (15 mL) spice mixture onto both sides of steak. Broil flank steak 4 inches (10 cm) from heat until medium, about 4 minutes per side. Remove steak but leave broiler on. Let steak stand 10 minutes before thinly slicing across the grain, on the diagonal.  
4. Meanwhile, broil bread, cut-side up, until lightly toasted, about 30 seconds. Rub bread on toasted side with cut garlic. Brush toast-side with remaining tomato-lime juice mixture and broil until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Serve steak with corn relish and toasts.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

Think carefully about a wacky remark. Confusion can result from feeling passionate. A grand gesture shows a deep understanding of the truth.

**LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**

Don't give anyone an excuse to offer you a treat. Amazing information will take on greater significance. You can admit that you were wrong.

**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**

Something has finally been finished. You'll want to spill the beans about the facts. A safe bet is best for super benefits.

**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**

Don't gasp at what happened in the past. Say nice things about someone's habits. A confidante will give a pep talk.

**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**

Good things come to those who research well. An underdog finds the key to success. An irritating expert ignores your feelings.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**

Don't despair about a bad state of affairs. All freethinkers will resist oppression. A tiny tyrant will steer clear of the truth.

**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**

An ally will object to a lack of discipline. An expert's insight will be rationalized. Demanding respect could cause a problem.

**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**

Don't give orders to a returning friend. Significant memories will be unreliably reported. Grimy surroundings are the result of chaos.

**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**

Denial is an issue for someone with a bad condition. Don't dwell on making last-minute plans. A disgruntled relative will complain.

**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**

Try to make a move without delay. You can find a way to break loose. Be more dynamic and less sceptical.

**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**

A daft girl will say some flip-pant things. A friend is secretive about misbehaving. You'll thrive after moving ahead in love.

**PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**

Opinionated conversations can cause you to shiver with dread. Family secrets cause distress. A practical person witnesses a catastrophe.

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**This day in history**

DEC. 18, 1642: Abel Tasman becomes first European to land in New Zealand.  
DEC. 18, 1777: The United States celebrates its first Thanksgiving, celebrating the recent victory by the Americans over General John Burgoyne in the Battle of Saratoga in October.  
DEC. 18, 1932: The Chicago Bears defeat the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in the first ever NFL Championship Game. Due to a blizzard, the game was moved from Wrigley Field to the Chicago Stadium.  
DEC. 18, 1996: The Oakland, California school board passes a resolution officially declaring "Ebonics" a language or dialect.

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Southcentre Mall -Kiosk  
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